E-Teacher Scholarship Program:

English as a Foreign Language Assessment

Offered by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering an online teacher training course on "Teaching Critical Thinking" for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

Course Description
This course is designed to introduce the participants to the theory and practice of foreign language assessment and testing. Participants will learn about the differences between assessment and testing, and how they can be used to make effective decisions to support teaching and learning. They will learn important concepts to consider when developing assessment and tests, such as validity, reliability, and practicality, as well as different kinds of assessments and tests (formative, summative, diagnostic, proficiency, achievement, product-oriented, process-oriented, alternate assessments). They will develop skills to assess ESL/EFL learner's performance in all four skill areas and content areas. They will learn to develop test specifications, develop items, analyze and edit items, and put together a final assessment instrument that is reliable, valid, and useful. They will gain experience developing rubrics to assist with grading and scoring and make the assessment process transparent to all stakeholders. This 10-week course will be offered in the spring of 2010.

Requirements
Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Candidates will be nominated by American embassies and selected in a competitive process. Interested candidates should contact the Regional English Language Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer at the nearest American embassy.